Nazarene Missions International Constitution

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Nazarene Missions International (NMI) of the Church of the Nazarene.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to

- mobilize the entire church in active mission involvement, in united prayer, and in the study of the salvation needs of the world;
- promote a wider knowledge of the mission fields of the Church of the Nazarene;
- inspire and challenge youth and children to be open to God's call for missionary service, and to facilitate the mentoring of children, youth, and adults in their calls;
- raise funds, as elsewhere provided for in this Constitution, for extending the kingdom of Jesus Christ around the world.

Article III. Structure

Section 1. Local

The local Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be an organization of the local church and shall work cooperatively with the pastor and church board through the local NMI council.

A local NMI may choose to have one or more groups to further the purpose of NMI (e.g., Sunday School classes, children's church, youth groups, chapters, special missions emphasis focus, etc.). Such groups and the appointment/election of officers shall be authorized by the local NMI council with approval by the pastor and the respective related leaders.

Section 2. District

The district Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be an organization of the _____ District and work cooperatively with the district superintendent, district advisory board, and other district related leaders through the district NMI council.

All local NMI organizations within the boundaries of _____ District shall constitute the district NMI.

Section 3. General

The general Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be an organization of the Church of the Nazarene and work cooperatively with the General NMI Council, the World Mission Department, the World Mission Committee of the General Board, and the responsible general superintendent.

All district and local NMI organizations shall constitute the general NMI. It shall be auxiliary to the Church of the Nazarene.

Article IV. Membership

A. Members: Any person who is a member of the Church of the Nazarene and supports the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) purpose may be a member of NMI in that local church.
   1. Voting and holding office shall be limited to members who are 15 years of age or older, except in children's and youth groups.
   2. Unless otherwise stated in this constitution, reference to "members" means NMI members who are members of the church.

B. Associate Members: Any person who is not a member of the Church of the Nazarene and supports the NMI purpose may be an associate member of NMI.

Article V. Councils and Officers

Section 1. Local Council

A. Purpose: The local council shall promote the purpose of Nazarene Missions International (NMI) in the local church.

B. Composition
   1. The council shall have four officers: a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
   2. Council members shall be responsible for mission education, LINKS, prayer and fasting, Mission Call, Alabaster, Missionary Health Care, Work & Witness, World Mission Broadcast, publicity, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, children's missions, youth missions, and/or any other emphasis deemed necessary by the local council. Chapter chairmen shall be members of the local NMI council. A council member may hold more than one position but only have one vote.
   3. Executive committee shall be the pastor (ex officio), NMI officers, and two other council members.
   4. Any district NMI council member shall be an ex officio member of the local NMI council with the approval of the local NMI council.

C. Nominations, Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies
   1. Nominations: The council shall be nominated by a committee of not less than three and no more than seven members of the NMI. The pastor shall appoint the nominating committee and serve as the committee chairman. All nominees shall be NMI members of the local Church of the Nazarene.
   2. Elections: The officers and a minimum of two additional council members shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall begin serving on the first day of the new church year after the election. If a local church has a unified treasurer who accounts for church funds, including NMI monies, and who has been elected by the church board, that person shall be the NMI treasurer as an ex officio member of the local NMI council with all rights and duties, unless otherwise specified by the local council.
      a. President
         (1) The nominating committee shall submit one or more names for the office of president, subject to the approval of the church board.
         (2) Incumbent nominees may be reelected by a yes/no ballot when such election is recommended by the nominating committee and approved by the pastor.

(3) The president shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the members present and voting for a term of service of one or two church years. The NMI council and the pastor shall recommend the length of the term of service.

b. Each of the remaining officers shall be elected by ballot for a term of service of one or two church years, the length of the term to be recommended by the NMI council and the pastor, by
(1) A plurality vote; or
(2) A yes/no vote, when such a vote is recommended by the nominating committee and approved by the pastor.

c. Additional council members, whose length of service shall be one church year**,** may be:
(1) Elected to specific responsibilities, or
(2) Elected to the council as a whole with responsibilities to be determined later, or
(3) Appointed by the executive committee.

d. Delegates and alternates to the district convention shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting by a plurality vote. Alternates may be elected on a separate ballot, or at the recommendation of the local council on the same ballot as the delegates. (See Article VI, Section 2, A.3 for determining the number of delegates.)

3. Appointments: In consultation with the pastor, additional council members may be appointed by the executive committee to a term of service of one church year and shall begin serving on the first day of the new church year or at any time after the appointment is made.

4. Vacancies
a. President: The executive committee shall nominate one or more names with the approval of the church board. Election shall be by ballot with a majority vote of the NMI members at any regular or called meeting.
b. Other executive committee members: The executive committee shall nominate one or more names. Election shall be by ballot by a plurality vote of the local NMI members at any regular or called meeting. If a local church has a unified treasurer, that vacancy shall be filled by the church board.
c. Other council members: The executive committee shall fill any vacancy by appointment.

D. Duties of Council Members

1. President
a. Directs the work of NMI in the local church.
b. Presides at all regular and special meetings of NMI.
c. Promotes, or delegates responsibility for, all emphases not assigned by election or council action.
d. Prepares an annual budget for approval by the local NMI council and church board.
e. Submits annually written reports to the local NMI, the annual church meeting, the pastor of the local church, and the district NMI secretary.
f. Serves as an ex officio member of the church board, Sunday School Ministries board, district NMI convention, and district assembly. In the case where the pastor's spouse serves as the local president, if he or she so desires not to serve on the church board, the vice president is authorized to serve on the church board in the president's place.

2. Vice President
a. Performs all duties of the president when the president is absent.
b. Serves in other areas as assigned by the local NMI council.

3. Secretary
a. Conducts the correspondence of the NMI, keeps statistical records, and records the minutes of all business meetings.
b. Keeps a complete list of all NMI members.

4. Treasurer
    a. Keeps an accurate account of all funds collected and expended.
    b. Ensures all offerings are sent to the designated treasurers in a timely manner.
    c. Furnishes the council and, where applicable, the local church treasurer with all reports.

5. Executive Committee
    a. Appoints additional council members or fills vacancies on the council.
    b. Transacts business between council meetings.
    c. Nominates one or more names for president if a vacancy occurs between annual meetings.
6. Other Council Members
    a. Promotes the emphases and/or responsibility to which they are assigned (see *NMI Handbook*).

Section 2: District Council

A. Purpose: The district council shall promote the purpose of Nazarene Missions International within the district.

B. Composition
    1. The council shall have four officers: a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
    2. Council members shall be responsible for mission education, LINKS, prayer and fasting, Mission Call, Alabaster, Missionary Health Care, Work & Witness, World Mission Broadcast, publicity, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, children's missions, youth missions, deputation, NMI zone or area coordinators, or any other emphasis deemed necessary by the district council. A council member may hold more than one position but have only one vote.
    3. Executive Committee shall be the district superintendent, NMI officers, and two other council members.

C. Nominations, Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies
    1. Nominations: The council shall be nominated by a committee of not less than five (5) members of the NMI. The district executive committee shall appoint the nominating committee. The district superintendent shall serve as the committee chairman for the nomination of the district president. Upon approval of the district superintendent, the district NMI president may serve as chairman of the nominating committee for other nominations. All nominees shall be NMI members of a local Church of the Nazarene on the district where they will serve.
    2. Elections: The president and at least four additional council members, one of which will be designated as vice president, shall be elected by ballot at the annual district convention. (These four council positions do not include the secretary and treasurer. See Article V, Section 2, C.2.c.) The term of service shall be one or two convention years. A convention year is from the adjournment of the district convention to the adjournment of the next district convention.
        a. President
            (1) The nominating committee shall submit at least two or more names for the office of president except when nominating an incumbent president for another term.
            (2) Incumbent nominees may be reelected by a yes/no ballot when such election is recommended by the district council and approved by the district superintendent.
            (3) The president shall be elected by a two-thirds favorable vote of the members present and voting for a term of service of one or two convention years or until the successor

has been elected. The district NMI council and the district superintendent shall recommend the length of the term of service.

b. Vice president shall be elected by ballot in one of the following ways:
   (1) To the specific responsibility with two names submitted for the office; or
   (2) To the council as a whole with specific council positions to be determined by the council; or
   (3) A yes/no vote upon the recommendation of the nominating committee and approval of the district superintendent.

c. Secretary and treasurer shall be elected by ballot by
   (1) The district convention. With the recommendation of the nominating committee and approval of the district superintendent, election may be by a yes/no ballot for one or two convention years; or
   (2) The newly elected district council upon the recommendation of the nominating committee and approval of the district superintendent. With the recommendation of the nominating committee and approval of the district superintendent, election may be by a yes/no ballot for one or two convention years.
   (3) If a district has a unified treasurer who accounts for district funds, including NMI monies, that person shall be the NMI treasurer as an ex officio member of the district NMI council with all rights and duties, unless otherwise specified by the district council.

d. Three council members, in addition to the officers**,** shall be elected by ballot for one or two convention years with responsibilities to be determined by the council. The nominating committee and the district superintendent shall recommend the length of the term of service.

e. Additional council members, including NMI zone or area coordinators, may be
   (1) Elected to specific responsibilities; or
   (2) Elected to the council as a whole with responsibilities to be determined later by the council; or
   (3) Appointed by the executive committee or district council as determined by the executive committee.

   The term of service shall be one or two convention years. The nominating committee and district superintendent shall recommend the length of the term of service.

f. Youth representatives
   (1) The district convention may elect by ballot one and not more than two youth members to the district council; or
   (2) The newly elected district council may elect one and not more than two youth members to the district council.
   (3) Nominations may be requested from the district Nazarene Youth International executive committee.
   (4) Term of service shall be for one convention year.

g. The two executive committee members other than the officers shall be elected by ballot by the district council for a term of service of one convention year or until their successors are elected.

h. Delegates and alternates to the General Convention shall be elected by ballot at a district convention. Alternates may be elected on a separate ballot, or at the recommendation of the district council on the same ballot as the delegates. (See Article VI, Section 3, A.3.b. for determining the number of delegates and time of election.)

3. Appointments: In consultation with the district superintendent, additional council members may be appointed by the executive committee or district council as determined by the executive committee.

4. Vacancies
    a. President: The executive committee shall nominate two names. Election shall be by ballot with a majority vote of the district council present and voting. The person elected shall serve until the adjournment of the next district convention.
    b. Other council members: The executive committee or district council shall fill any vacancy by appointment. The newly appointed council members shall serve until the adjournment of the next district convention.
    c. Unified treasurer: If a district has a unified treasurer, that vacancy shall be filled by district advisory board.

D. Duties of Council Members
1. President
    a. Directs the work of NMI on the district.
    b. Presides at all meetings of the district council, executive committee, and the district convention.
    c. Promotes, or delegates responsibility for, all emphases not assigned by election or council action.
    d. Prepares an annual budget for approval by the district finance committee.
    e. Submits annually a written report to the district NMI convention and to the General NMI Council regional representative.
    f. Serves as an ex officio member of the district advisory council, district Sunday School Ministries board, district NMI convention, and district assembly.
2. Vice President
    a. Performs all duties of the president when the president is absent.
    b. Serves in other areas as assigned by the district NMI council.
3. Secretary
    a. Conducts the correspondence of the NMI and records the minutes of all business meetings.
    b. Sends report forms annually to local NMI presidents.
    c. Compiles statistical records and submits an annual report to the district president, general NMI director, General Council representative, and where applicable the NMI program coordinator for World Mission regions.
4. Treasurer
    a. Keeps an accurate account of all funds collected and expended.
    b. Remits funds to designated treasurers in a timely manner.
    c. Furnishes regular itemized reports to the district council and prepares an annual report for the district convention.
    d. Arranges with appropriate district personnel the annual audit of the district NMI treasurer's books.
5. Executive Committee
    a. Appoints additional district council members or fills vacancies on the council.
    b. Transacts business between council meetings.
    c. Nominates two names for president if a vacancy occurs between annual conventions.
6. Other Council Members
    a. Promote the emphases and/or responsibility to which they are assigned (see *NMI Handbook*).

Section 3: General Council

A. Purpose: The General NMI Council shall promote the purpose of Nazarene Missions International.

B. Composition
   1. General director, general president, and one representative from each region in the Church of the Nazarene.
   2. Executive Committee shall be the general director, the general president, the vice president, and two other council members.
   3. The director of the World Mission Department shall be a member of the General Council and the Executive Committee.

C. Nominations, Elections, and Vacancies
   1. Nomination and Election of General Director
      a. The general director shall be nominated by the director of the World Mission Department in consultation with the responsible general superintendent for the World Mission Department.
      b. The General Council shall approve the nominated general director by a majority vote by ballot.
      c. The World Mission Committee of the General Board shall approve the nomination by a majority vote by ballot and recommend the nominee to the Board of General Superintendents.
      d. The Board of General Superintendents shall elect the general director.
   2. Nomination and Election of General President
      a. A nominating committee composed of the general director, three regional representatives from the General Council, and five non-General Council members shall be appointed by the executive committee. No two members of the nominating committee may be from the same region.
      b. The general director shall serve as chairman of the nominating committee.
      c. The committee shall submit the names of two and not more than three persons for general president. The nominees shall be approved by the Board of General Superintendents.
      d. From these nominees the General Convention shall elect a general president by a two-thirds vote by ballot.
      e. The general president shall serve from the adjournment of the General Convention until the adjournment of the next General Convention or until his or her successor has been elected and qualified.
      f. The general president shall be limited to two full terms of service. A term of service shall be one quadrennium. If a person is elected to fill a vacancy in the office of general president, that person is also eligible to serve two full terms.
   3. Nomination and Election of General Council Members
      a. Each district NMI council may submit one or two names to the General NMI Office from its region as the regional representative for a nominating ballot.
         (1) These persons shall be members and residents of the region they will represent, except in the case where the council member moves from that region within 6 months prior to the General Convention.
         (2) This provision does not apply to anyone whose home residence is just across a regional boundary from the place of church membership.
      b. From these names on the nominating ballot, each region in caucus at the general NMI convention shall choose by ballot two nominees. The two with the highest number of votes shall be declared the nominees; however, the two nominees shall not be from the same district. If this happens, the person with the second highest number of votes is replaced by the person with the next highest number of votes from a different district.
      c. The region in caucus shall then elect one person by a majority vote to represent the region on the General Council.

d. Council members shall serve from the adjournment of the General Convention until the adjournment of the next General Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified.
e. The term of service shall be limited to two full terms. A term of service shall be one quadrennium. If a person is elected to fill a vacancy of a General Council member, that person is also eligible to serve two full terms.

4. Nomination and Election of Executive Committee
   a. The General Council shall in its first meeting nominate and elect a vice president and two additional members for the executive committee.
   b. Election shall be by ballot by a majority vote of those present and voting.
5. Nomination and Election of NMI Representative to General Board
   a. The General Council shall nominate two members of the council to represent NMI on the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene.
   b. The General Assembly shall elect the NMI representative by ballot.
6. Vacancies
   a. If a vacancy occurs in the office of general president between General Conventions, a new general president shall be elected from nominees selected by the executive committee in consultation with the responsible general superintendent by a two-thirds vote of the General Council. The person will perform the duties of the general president until adjournment of the next General Convention. The question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the General Council in consultation with the responsible general superintendent.
   b. If a vacancy occurs on the council between General Conventions, each district executive committee on the region concerned shall be requested to submit one nominee from the region to the general executive committee. From these names, the general executive committee shall present two names as nominees. The vacancy shall then be filled by a majority vote by the district NMI presidents on the region. The question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the General Council executive committee in consultation with the responsible general superintendent.
   c. If a vacancy occurs in the office of general director, the same process will be followed for the nomination and election of the general director (see Article V. Section 3. C. 1).
   d. If a vacancy occurs in the executive committee between General Conventions, the General Council shall nominate two people. The vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote by ballot of the General NMI Council.
   e. If a vacancy occurs in the NMI representative to the General Board, the general executive committee shall submit two nominees after consultation with the responsible general superintendent and the approval of the Board of General Superintendents. The General NMI Council shall elect the General Board representative by a majority vote.

D. Duties
1. General Council Members
   a. Cooperate with the general NMI director in developing NMI policy and program.
   b. Promote the total program of the NMI in the geographic region they represent.
   c. Submit a report of the NMI work in the region to each General Council meeting.
   d. Nominate two members of the council for election by the General Assembly as the NMI representative on the General Board.
   e. Act on any legislation passed by the General Assembly relevant to regional representation.
   f. Elect a vice president and two other members from the council to the executive committee.

2. General Director
    a. Serves as the executive officer of NMI.
    b. Advances the mission interests of NMI throughout the districts around the world in cooperation with the General Council.
    c. Interprets the *NMI Handbook and Constitution*.
    d. Directs the personnel and business of the general office.
    e. Serves as editor-in-chief of all NMI publications.
    f. Directs the compilation and maintenance of records and reports.
    g. Makes an annual financial and statistical report to the General Council, the World Mission Committee, and the General Board.
    h. Prepares a condensed report of business transacted in each meeting of the council for approval by the World Mission Committee of the General Board.
    i. Directs the organization and program of the General Convention in collaboration with the General Council.
    j. Prepares the General Convention report, both financial and statistical, with a condensed version through the World Mission Department for the General Assembly.
    k. Serves as an ex officio member of the General Assembly.
3. General President
    a. Presides at the meetings of the General Council, executive committee, and the General Convention.
    b. Promotes the purpose and programs of NMI.
4. Vice President
    a. Performs the duties of the president when the president is absent.
5. Executive Committee
    a. Transacts business between council meetings.
    b. Nominates two names for general president if a vacancy occurs between General Conventions.
    c. Nominates two names for a vacancy on the executive committee.
    d. Appoints the nominating committee for general president.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. Local Meetings

A. Monthly
There shall be one or more meetings for mission information, inspiration, and prayer held each calendar month.
    1. Meetings may take the form of mission services, mission speakers, mission lessons, mission activities and events, mission moments, NMI emphases, etc.
    2. The NMI president and the council shall work in cooperation with the pastor in planning mission education and involvement for the local church.

B. Annual
    1. The annual meeting shall be held no later than 30 days prior to the district convention to elect the executive committee/council for the next church year and the delegates to the district convention.
    2. Voting and election to the local council shall be limited to NMI members who are 15 years of age or older.

C. Council Meetings
The local council shall meet at least quarterly to plan, report, evaluate, inform, inspire, and carry out the work of the local organization. A majority of council members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. District Meetings

A. Convention
   1. There shall be an annual district convention to report, pray, inform, inspire, present plans, and conduct business pertaining to the organization.
   2. The time and place of the convention shall be decided by the district council in consultation with the district superintendent and shall be held within 30 days prior to the district assembly.
   3. Membership
      a. Only members of the respective district shall be eligible to serve as ex officio or elected delegates.
      b. Ex officio members of the convention shall be district NMI council; district superintendent; all assigned ministers and full-time salaried associate ministers of local churches; lay members of the district advisory board; the local NMI presidents of the assembly year just ending, and newly elected NMI presidents or newly elected vice presidents if the newly elected president cannot attend; General NMI Council member; retired assigned ministers; retired missionaries, missionaries on home assignment, and missionary appointees; and any former district presidents who reside on the district that they served.
      c. Elected delegates from each local church shall be NMI members (15 years of age or older). The number of elected delegates shall be based on the following formula: two delegates (excluding associate members) from each local NMI of 25 members or fewer, and one additional delegate for each additional 25 members or major portion thereof.
   4. The delegates present shall constitute a quorum.

B. Council
   The district council shall meet at least biannually to transact business in the interim between the annual district conventions. A majority of council members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. General Meetings

A. Convention
   1. There shall be a General Convention of Nazarene Missions International immediately preceding the General Assembly to report, pray, inform, inspire, present plans, and conduct business pertaining to the organization. A majority of registered delegates shall constitute a quorum.
   2. The time and place of the convention shall be decided by the General Council in consultation with the responsible general superintendent.
   3. Membership
      a. Ex officio members of the General Convention shall be members of the General Council; NMI program coordinators of World Mission regions; district NMI presidents, or in the event a district president cannot attend, the district vice president may be allowed to represent that district; and the NMI president of each Phase 1 district, or if the president cannot attend, the president, with the approval of the district superintendent may designate an alternate to be seated.
      b. Elected delegates to the General Convention shall be based on the following formula: two delegates from each Phase 3 and Phase 2 district of 1,000 or fewer NMI members, excluding associates, and one additional delegate for each additional 700 members or major portion thereof.

c. One career missionary delegate for every World Mission region of 50 or fewer missionaries, or two career missionary delegates for each region with 51 or more missionaries shall be elected by the Regional Advisory Council in each region.
d. Delegates are to be elected by ballot by the district convention within 16 months of the General Convention or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary.
e. Any elected delegate shall be residing at the time of the General Convention on the district where he or she held membership at the time of election. If any elected delegate moves off the district, the privilege of representing the former district is forfeited. This provision does not apply to anyone whose home residence is just across a district boundary from the place of church membership.

B. Council Meetings
The General Council shall meet a minimum of three times during the quadrennium to transact business pertaining to the organization. A majority of council members shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII. Funds

Section 1. Raised by Local Churches

A. World Evangelism Fund
1. All funds raised for the World Evangelism Fund shall be sent to the general treasurer.
2. World Evangelism Fund (WEF) shall be raised in the following manner:
   a. Regular WEF offerings
   b. Easter and Thanksgiving offerings
   c. The WEF portion of Faith Promise giving
   d. Prayer and Fasting offerings

B. Approved Mission Specials
1. Opportunity shall be given to contribute to Approved Missions Specials (such as Alabaster, World Mission Broadcast, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Deputation, Missionary Health Care, LINKS, Work & Witness, NMI International Student Scholarship Fund, etc.) over and above WEF giving.
2. Additional Approved Mission Specials may be approved and authorized by appropriate personnel at Nazarene International Headquarters.
3. The General NMI Council shall authorize all Approved Mission Specials that are promoted and raised through NMI from the general level.

C. Funds Exclusive
1. No part of the World Evangelism Fund and Approve Mission Specials shall be used for local or district expense or charitable purposes.

D. Local Expense
1. A local expense fund shall be provided for NMI as determined by the local NMI council and approved by the church board.
2. A portion of the local expense shall be designated for the expenses of the district convention delegates.

Section 2. Raised by the Districts

A. District Expense

1. A district expense fund shall be provided for NMI as determined by the district NMI council and approved by the district finance committee.
2. A portion of the district expense fund shall be designated to pay for district delegate expenses to the General Convention.
3. World Evangelism Fund and Approved Mission Specials shall not be used for district expense.

Section 3. Remuneration

A. The ministry of NMI shall be a love service to the church. No salaries shall be paid at any level─local, district, and general─with the exception of the general director, who is employed by the General Board.

B. Adequate remuneration shall be provided for the expenses of council members at all levels─local, district, and general.

Article VIII. Policies and Procedures

The General NMI Council shall establish additional policies, procedures, and job descriptions for NMI to be contained in the *NMI Handbook* along with the NMI Constitution.

Article IX. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised,* when not in conflict with applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation of the Church of the Nazarene, the NMI Constitution, and any other rules of order that NMI may adopt, shall govern the organization.

Article X. Amendments

The NMI Constitution may be amended by two-thirds favorable vote of members present and voting at a General Convention of Nazarene Missions International and by the approval of the World Mission Committee of the General Board.

Passed by the General NMI Convention, June 23, 2005